

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 /089 W

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R 050001Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6523

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ELAB SGEN MX CA

SUBJ: THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THE CANADIAN-MEXICAN BRACERO
AGREEMENT.

REFS: A) MEXICO 5926 B) MEXICO 5181 C) MEXICO 5182

1. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW APPEARING IN EL SOL MARCH 2, THE
DIRGEN FOR CONSULAR SERVICES, JORGE AGUILAR SALDANA, LAMENTED
THAT SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE SUBJECT AGREEMENT (JUNE 17, 1974)
ONLY 207 MEXICAN WORKERS HAVE RECEIVED CONTRACTS TO WORK IN
CANADA. NOTING THAT THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATED FIGURES ON THE
NUMBER OF WORKERS NEEDED IN CANADA WERE ERRONEOUS (BUT NOT
CITING THESE ESTIMATES), AGUILAR SAID THE PROGRAM HAS REALLY
ACCOMPLISHED VERY LITTLE TOWARD RESOLVING OR RELIEVING THE
PROBLEM OF THE HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF UNEMPLOYED MIGRATORY
WORKERS OF MEXICO. HE ADDED THAT THERE HAD NOT EVEN BEEN ONE COM-
PLAINT ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF MEXICAN WORKERS, THAT THEY RECEIVE
SALARIES OF BETWEEN 2.10 AND 2.25 CANADIAN DOLLARS PER HOUR,
THAT THEY WORK 8 HOURS PER DAY, SIX DAYS A WEEK, AND THAT THE
BEST (I.E. LONGEST) CONTRACTS ARE FOR A PERIOD OF 8 WEEKS.

IN THREE CASES, THESE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN RENEWED. STRESSING
THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET INFORMED THE GOM HOW
MANY WORKERS WILL BE REQUIRED, AGUILAR HAZARDED A PERSONAL GUESS

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THAT ONLY A FEW THOUSAND WORKERS WOULD BE CONTRACTED THIS YEAR.

2. THE RESIDENT IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY
TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE GOM IS SENDING A MISSION TO OTTAWA TO
REVIEW THE BRACERO PROGRAM MARCH 25.

3. COMMENT: SINCE THE GOM AND MEXICAN PRESS ORIGINALLY
ESTIMATED THAT THIS PROGRAM WOULD GIVE EMPLOYMENT TO 10,000
TO 20,000 RURAL WORKERS ANNUALLY, THE DISPARITY BETWEEN
REALITY AND THIS ESTIMATE IS DOUBTLESSLY EMBARRASSING AND
DISAPPOINTING FOR THE GOM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIGRATORY WORKERS, AGREEMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, EMPLOYMENT DATA, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO01940
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0503
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750381/aaaacuqt.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 5926, 75 MEXICO 5181, 75 MEXICO 5182
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THE CANADIAN-MEXICAN BRACERO AGREEMENT.
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, SGEN, MX, CA, (AGUILAR SALDANA, JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006